

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On October 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., the Board of Island County Commissioners will hold a public hearing at the Island County Annex Building, Basement Meeting Room, 1 North East Sixth Street, Coupeville, Washington, to consider whether to accept, modify and accept, or reject the Whidbey Island Conservation District's and Snohomish Conservation District's proposed system of special monetary assessments on land. The proposed monetary special assessments would be charged to all parcels of land in Island County, including parcels in the unincorporated area of the county as well as the incorporated cities of Oak Harbor and Langley and the town of Coupeville, except for parcels of land not subject to property taxes and land zoned Rural Forest under the County's zoning ordinance. The proposed special monetary assessment would be collected for ten consecutive years in the amount of \$5.00 dollars per parcel of land plus an additional 5 cents per acre per year. The Conservation District programs and activities that would be financed with the special monetary assessments for 2010 would be natural resource planning and technical assistance, low impact development, preserving sustainable farm and forest lands, and outreach, education and partnerships. A special monetary assessment is not a tax. Conservation districts are not authorized to impose a system of taxes. Instead, in order to accept, or modify and accept, the conservation districts' proposed system of special monetary assessments the Board of County Commissioners must make findings that both the public interest will be served by the imposition of the special monetary assessments and that the special monetary assessments to be imposed on any land will not exceed the special benefit that the land receives or will receive from the activities of the conservation district.

The full text of the proposed Assessment Proposal Package will be provided upon request to the Whidbey Island Conservation District at phone numbers (360) 678-4708 or toll free (888) 678-4922.

Interested persons may appear at the public hearing and give testimony for or against the proposed conservation districts' system of special monetary assessments. Persons requiring auxiliary aids/services should call Island County Human Resources at 678-7919, or 321-5111, Ext. 7919, or 629-4522, ext. 7919 (use whichever number is applicable for the area) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

ELAINE MARLOW
CLERK OF THE BOARD
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